

Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

AID-20 OMB-01 RSR-01 /099 W
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R 221720 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4509

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FOL TEL REPEATED FOR YOU INFO

QTE

P R 220640 Z MAY 73

FM AMCONSUL MADRAS

TO RUSBAE/ AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 4468

RUSBAY/ AMCONSUL BOMBAY 1250

RUSBTA/ AMCONSUL CALCUTTA 1141

C O N F I D E N T I A L

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MADRAS 501

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJ: ADMK SWEEPS BY- ELECTION

1. THE ROUT OF ALL OTHER PARTIES BY THE ANNA
DRAVIDA MUNNETRA KAZHAGAM (ADMK) IN THE DINDIGUL
LOK SABHA BY- ELECTION IN TAMIL NADU MAY 20
SURPASSED EVEN THE WINNERS' WILDEST PREDICTIONS,
DEMONSTRATING FOR THE FIRST TIME THE VOTE- GATHERING
APPEAL OF THIS REBEL GROUP FORMED AROUND FILM STAR
M. G. RAMACHANDRAN AFTER HIS SPLIT WITH CHIEF
MINISTER KARUNANIDHI LAST OCTOBER. THE ADMK
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MAJORITY (260,930) WAS EVEN GREATER THAN THE VICTORY WON BY THE RULING DMK IN THIS CONSTITUENCY IN 1971, WITH HELP THEN OF THE "INDIRA WAVE" IN ALLIANCE WITH RULING CONGRESS. MOST ADMK VOTES WERE TAKEN FROM THE DMK, WHICH CAME IN A POOR THIRD (93,496). SECOND WAS THE OLD CONGRESS OF K. KAMARAJ (119,032 VOTES) WHICH HAD EXPECTED TO BENEFIT FROM DMK/ ADMK SPLIT TO WIN THE SEAT. MRS. GANDHI' S CONGRESS, WHOSE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP OVERRODE THE ADVICE OF LOCAL PARTY LEADERS NOT TO CONTEST ALONE, POLLED ONLY 11,423 VOTES AND LOST ITS DEPOSIT.

2. THE IMMEDIATE STABILITY OF THE KARUNANIDHI MINISTRY IS PROBABLY NOT THREATENED, AS ITS ASSEMBLY MAJORITY IS STILL LARGE (175 OUT OF 235). THE DMK HAD THROWN EVERYTHING INTO THE DINDIGUL CAMPAIGN, HOWEVER, AND THIS LOSS IN PRESTIGE WILL BE HUMILIATING AND PERHAPS DIVISIVE. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT MORE DMK ASSEMBLY MEMBERS WILL DEFECT TO RAMACHANDRAN' S PARTY. ALTERNATIVELY, IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT KARUNANIDHI' S ENEMIES IN DMK COULD SEIZE ON BY- ELECTION AS SIGN OF HIS UNPOPULARITY AND MOVE TO REPLACE HIM WITH LESS CONTROVERSIAL FIGURE WHO COULD WIN ADMK BACK TO FOLD. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS THE CHIEF MINISTER BELITTLED SIGNIFICANCE OF THE OUTCOME, AND WITH UNBECOMING RECRIMINATION BLAMED PARTY' S POOR SHOWING ON THE LOCAL DMK UNIT' S CHOICE OF A CANDIDATE FROM WRONG SUB- CASTE.

3. APALLING CONGRESS- R SHOWING DEMONSTRATES AGAIN THAT MRS. GANDHI' S CLOSE TAMIL ASSOCIATES (E. G. MINISTERS SUBRAMANIAM AND KUMARAMANGALAM) HAVE LITTLE LOCAL BASE OR EVEN UNDERSTANDING OF TAMIL POLITICS. NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS BY- ELECTION IS SLIGHT, HOWEVER, CONGRESS- R FAILURE IN THE FASTNESSES OF TAMIL NADU, WHERE MRS. GANDHI' S APPARATUS IS VIRTUALLY NIL AND WHERE WOMEN VOTERS STILL RESPOND TO THE GLAMOR OF MATINEE IDOLS RATHER THAN TO THE SYMBOL OF LIBERATED WOMANHOOD, SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN SAME WEIGHT AS RECENT SETBACKS IN BOMBAY AND BIHAR.

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4. THE CPI, WHICH SUPPORTED RAMACHANDRAN' S PARTY (AS DID THE CPM), WILL DOUBTLESS CROW OVER THIS ALLEGED DEMONSTRATION OF ITS STRENGTH. WE DOUBT THEY CONTRIBUTED MUCH TO TOTAL VOTE, HOWEVER.
PALMER
UNQTE MOYNIHAN

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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